

MINUTES
of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 17, 2020
7 p.m.

The New Jersey School Boards Association Headquarters
Trenton, NJ

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF January 17, 2020
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
TRENTON, NJ

January 17, 2020

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Friday, January 17, 2020 at the NJSBA headquarters, Trenton, NJ.

Executive Committee members present were Michael McClure, president; Tammeisha Smith, vice president for finance; Dr. Karen Cortellino, vice president for legislation/resolutions; Daniel Sinclair, Immediate Past President, and Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod, executive director.

Association staff present were Frank Belluscio, deputy executive director/director of communications; Cynthia Jahn, Esq., general counsel; Michael Vrancik, director of governmental relations; Joseph Hsieh, director of information technology; Carl Tanksley, director of legal & labor relations services; Jane Kershner, director of field services; John Faford, director of budget & finance; Vincent DeLucia, director of training and professional development; Patty Maillet, director of business development; Ray Pinney, director of member engagement; Kim Blum, director of human resources; Billie Barnett, member services representative, and Ann Marie Smith, administrative assistant, executive office/communications.

The following members and alternates of the Board of Directors were present:

Atlantic	Dr. Anne Erickson	Passaic	Jeff Fischer
Bergen	Sheli Danský		Nancy Schwartz
Burlington	Harry Litwack	Salem	Dominick Miletta
	Erica Campbell	Somerset	Not Represented
Camden	Gail David	Sussex	Marie Bilik
	Naomi Davidson (Alt.)	Union	Not Represented
Cape May	Not Represented	Warren	Paul Williams
Cumberland	Michelle Kennedy		
Essex	Not Represented	County	Not Represented
Gloucester	Peter Calvo	Association	
Hudson	Not Represented	Leadership	
Hunterdon	Not Represented		
Mercer	Dana Krug	Urban Board	William Monk
Middlesex	Deven Patel (Alt.)		Diane Johnson
Monmouth	Mark Bonjavanni		Rita Martin (Alt.)
Morris	Irene LeFebvre		Sheila Etienne (Alt.)
Ocean	Melanie Biscardi		
	Richard Casey (Alt.)	Vocational	Elizabeth Martin
			Jon-Henry Barr

ROLL CALL

President McClure called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A roll call indicated four officers, 14 counties, urban boards and vocational boards were represented.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

President McClure asked for a moment of silence in recognition of the daughter of Lucy Bloom, Middlesex County School Boards Association President, Sayreville Board of Education Member and former NJSBA Board of Directors member, who passed away earlier in the week.

FLAG SALUTE

President McClure led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MISSION STATEMENT

President McClure led the members in reciting the Association's Mission Statement.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments

RECOGNITION OF NEW AND RETIRING MEMBERS/OATH OF OFFICE

The Board of Directors introduced the following new members: Dana Krug of the West Windsor-Plainsboro Board of Education, member representing Mercer County; Sheila Etienne of the Asbury Park Board of Education, alternate representing the Urban Boards Committee; and, Jon-Henry Barr of the Union County Vocational Board of Education, alternate representing county vocational boards.

New members and alternates and members who were not present at the September 27 or November 15 meetings took the oath of office.

ACTION ITEMS

Roll Call Agenda Items:

President McClure asked for a motion to approve the request from the Educational Leadership Foundation of New Jersey (ELF NJ) for a grant in the amount of \$50,000 for fiscal year 2019-2020 from the Alliance for Competitive Energy Services to support the New Jersey digital learning program.

Dr. Erickson moved to APPROVE the request from ELF NJ for a grant in the amount of \$50,000 for fiscal year 2019-2020 from the Alliance for Competitive Energy Services to support the New Jersey digital learning program. The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 22 members voting in the affirmative.

Consent Agenda Items

- Approval of the NJSBA 2020-2021 Advocacy Agenda
- Approval of the open session minutes of the November 15, 2019 Board of Directors meeting
- Approval of the NJSBA Legislative Committee appointments
- Approval of the NJSBA Resolutions Subcommittee appointments

President McClure asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda items.

Mr. Bonjavanni moved to APPROVE the consent agenda items. The motion was duly seconded and carried.

Executive Director's Report Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod provided a report on NJSBA activities and progress toward the goals of the current strategic plan.

- **Mental Health Services** –To build upon the work of the Task Force on Mental Health Services in the Public Schools, NJSBA has created a Health and Wellness Committee. The first meeting will take place on January 27 and will involve a Steering Committee of 19. On February 18, a meeting of the full committee, consisting of 39 members appointed by President McClure and resource persons will take place.
- **Educational Equity** – In 2019, NJSBA established the NJSBA Equity Council. The Council has addressed subjects ranging from inherent bias to the need for a diversified teaching workforce. A significant amount of NJSBA training is being focused on educational equity. On Saturday, February 8, the Field Services staff will conduct three regional leadership forums simultaneously that will help school boards understand their critical role in developing a vision for equity in their districts. A statewide conference is planned for later this year. In addition, numerous programs at Workshop 2019, including the Commissioner of Education's keynote presentation, centered on educational equity.
- **Association Management System (Cobalt)** – NJSBA's new Association Management System will go live during the week of January 20, with minimal interruption to members. The new system will provide improved data collection and member access to course completion and certification records.
- **NJSBA Online University** – To improve the quality of its online programs, NJSBA has partnered with the Rutgers Division of Continuing Studies, a national leader in web-based training. *NJSBA's Online University* will include completely revamped Governance Programs, using a new Learning Management System that is compatible with Cobalt.

Dr. Feinsod also reported on other recent developments at NJSBA, including the following:

- **Career-Focused Learner** – The NJSBA Career-Focused Learner Ambassadors Group, created to advance the work of the Task Force on Education Opportunities for the Non-College-Bound Learner, will hold its first meeting on Saturday, January 25. The Ambassadors will speak to local boards of education and other groups about the needs of career-focused students, current opportunities, and how school districts can expand educational options.
- **School Board Recognition Month** – January is School Board Recognition Month in New Jersey. President Mike McClure and Dr. Feinsod attended the January 8 State Board of Education meeting, during which they accepted a resolution honoring New Jersey's 5,000 local board of education members. Governor Murphy and Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver also issued a proclamation expressing appreciation for the work of local school boards.
- **NJSBA-U.S. Army Partnership** – NJSBA's unique partnership with the U.S. army is designed to advance STEAM education in the schools. As part of the agreement, the Army places a STEAM education fellow on the NJSBA staff at no cost. This month, Sergeant Joe Wittmer, the STEAM Education Fellow for the past year and a half, has been re-assigned. Dr. Feinsod expressed appreciation for Sgt. Wittmer's contributions to the STEAM Tank Challenge and other efforts. The new U.S. Army STEAM fellow is Sergeant First Class Edwin Morel.

Advocacy Update: The Executive Director’s report included an update on advocacy provided by the Governmental Relations Department. The update referenced legislation that moved in the [final days](#) of the legislative session, which ended January 13. A new legislative session begins on Tuesday, January 21, with the reintroduction of new versions of several bills that were not acted on during the previous session, including the vaccination bill. Members were also reminded of deadlines for [grants](#) to promote consolidation and shared services.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT AND OFFICERS

President

President McClure reported that he attended the 2019 Governor’s Environmental Excellence Award ceremony in Trenton. NJSBA received an award for supporting health and sustainable communities. Mr. McClure accepted the award along with Dr. Larry Feinsod and John Henry, NJSBA’s STEAM & sustainable schools specialist. President McClure also suggested that NJSBA create an award display in the lobby of the headquarters building.

Vice President for Finance

Vice President Smith reported on the successful roll-out of Cobalt, the new Association Management System. The new system replaces the Personify System.

Vice President for Legislation and Resolutions

Vice President Cortellino reported on the end of the 2018-19 legislative session. The two-year cycle was eventful, featuring the amendments to School Funding Reform Act, as well as the \$450 million in facility funding and lead remediation. Dr. Cortellino also wished everyone a happy new year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Calvo announced Dr. Feinsod’s appointment to the board of directors the National Job Corps Association, which represents organizations that provide job training to young adults.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, *Ms. LeFebvre moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence S. Feinsod, Ed.D.
Executive Director